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American Russian Cultural Association, Inc.

Annual Report — 1946

Post-war periods are always replete with danger signs for Culture. ARCA steadfastly adheres to its belief that the international bridge of Culture must be built above the political seas, and vigilantly defended and strongly buttressed to weather all storms. Truly, Culture is in danger! When doubt, distrust and suspicion of one's neighbor sets in, there forms a growing gap which is difficult thereafter to bridge. ARCA is very keenly and sensitively aware of these disturbing sign-posts on the road to peace and, therefore, dedicates itself with but greater intensity to the task of fostering between the USA and the USSR more knowledge of and respect for each other's cultural aspirations and achievements.

As this Report for 1946 shows, our library and information service, lectures and exhibitions served well this purpose throughout the year. We intend to continue undaunted in this direction, in conscious resistance to the forces who plan and nourish the negative trend.

Our report ends with an article, "Let us Rejoice", by our Honorary President, Prof. Nicholas Roerich. Envisioning the future with courage and magnanimity, we can truly rejoice.

In furthering our efforts to promote the teaching of the Russian language in the high schools of this country, letters were sent to Columbia and New York Universities, and to the Board of Higher Education, N. Y. C., asking these institutions to allow the same credit points for Russian as for other languages to high school students upon entrance. Their replies stated that they favor the project, with certain stipulations and reservations.

Mr. Leonide Massine, ARCA Director, has been instrumental, with the help of his ballet company, in furthering the understanding of Russian culture and the art of ballet through his many tours, his film produced by Twentieth-Century-Fox, Hollywood, and his

engagements in London, England, where he has presented with brilliant success his new ballet, "Bullet in the Ballet".

Mrs. Paul Dutko, ARCA member residing in Czechoslovakia, sent to ARCA several letters from Prague school children to be forwarded to American school children. These letters were sent to Mrs. William Klaber of The Ethical Culture School, with an aim to inaugurate a correspondence between school children of the two countries. Mrs. Dutko is quite active, writing articles for the Czechoslovakian press and making contacts for ARCA.

Mr. Valery J. Tereshtenko, ARCA Honorary Advisor, was sent to Europe on an assignment for UNRRA in the spring of 1946. When Mr. Tereshtenko left for the Soviet Union, he carried a letter of introduction from ARCA to VOKS, Moscow, requesting assistance from them in collecting cultural material for lectures. During his stay in the USSR Mr. Tereshtenko photographed important museums, universities, and monuments damaged in the war and now being restored, and also amassed a wealth of information through personal meetings with farmers, workers, artists, scientists, and government officials. Upon his return to the United States Mr. Tereshtenko is planning a series of lectures for ARCA giving his impressions and observations made on this trip to the Soviet Union.

The ARCA Russian Language Courses continued through the spring, fall and winter seasons. Mrs. Olga Lang had to discontinue teaching in January, 1946 because of her appointment by the War Department as interpreter at the Nuremberg trials in Germany. Her classes were taken over by Maric Tolstoi, well-known teacher of Russian and grand-daughter of the famous Russian writer, Leo Tolstoi.

Dr. E. Markoff, ARCA Director, conducted the second semester of her advanced Russian course, from January to May 1946, and certificates were presented to the students upon completion of the course. A full description of Dr. Markoff's course together with her curriculum vitae was sent to Dr. E. S. Mooney, Assistant Commissioner for Teachers Education, Albany, following Dr. Mooney's visit to ARCA pertaining to the granting of alertness or in-service credit to high school teachers taking this course. Dr. Markoff was honored during the year 1946 with several grants from the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia to continue the research pertaining to the correspondence of Benjamin Franklin and this Society with the Russian Academy of Sciences in the beginning of the 18th Century.

ARCA cabled New Year's greetings to Mr. V. Kemenov, chairman of VOKS, Moscow, as follows: "Hearty Greetings for the New Year with hopes that 1947 will bring vigorous new growth to the cultural relations of our two countries. Joseph J. Weed, President, and Board of Directors, American Russian Cultural Association, New York".

ARCA's Honorary President, Prof. Nicholas Roerich, was elected Vice-President of the Conference of All Asiatic Countries which will be held early in 1947 at Delhi, India.

Sina Fosdick, ARCA Executive Director, attended, at the invitation of the USSR Ambassador, the reception at the Embassy in Washington, on the occasion of the Celebration of the 29th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Mr. V. M. Molotov, Russia's Foreign Minister, was guest of honor. Mr. Ermolaev, secretary of the USSR Embassy, spoke to Mrs. Fosdick with appreciation about ARCA's varied and extensive cultural activities.

Miss Magdalene Lehrer represented ARCA at the official conference of the Congress of American Women, held in New York City on May 25, 1946. The Congress of American Women is an auxiliary of the International Democratic Women's Federation, which had its first meeting in Paris in 1945, and whose membership includes women from England, France, the Soviet Union, India and other countries.

Albertina Vitak, our corresponding secretary, represented ARCA at the reception of the American Italian Cultural Institute, held in New York on December 12, 1946.

Dr. George Roerich's article, "Indology in Russia", recently published in India, was sent by ARCA to the following distinguished Russians: His Excellency, Hon. V. M. Molotov, Minister of Foreign Affairs; His Excellency, Hon. Nikolai Novikov, Ambassador to the U. S.; the Hon. Andrei A. Gromyko, Soviet Representative to the United Nations; the Hon. Jacob M. Lomakin, Consul General, USSR; Mr. Alexander V. Goussev, Director Arts and Handicrafts Dept., Amtorg Trading Corp.; the Academy of Sciences, Moscow; Academician I. E. Grabar, Moscow; and Prof. Barannikov, Leningrad University.

Sixty-three books of American and English classics were donated by Miss Mary W. Dewson, Penobscot, Maine, through ARCA, to libraries in the Soviet Union which had been destroyed by the Germans.

ARCA announces the addition of the following names to its list of overseas members: Mr. Wladimiro Rimski-Korsakov and Mr. Ivan Alejandro Gavrilof, both of Buenos Aires, Argentina; Prof. D. Gusti, Vice-President Rumanian Association for Cultural Relations with Soviet Russia, Bucharest, Rumania; and Mr. Norman S. Flook, ARCA life member, now residing at Honolulu, Hawaii. Mr. Flook, inaugurating a volunteer publicity program of his own, placed several advertisements in the Honolulu newspapers from time to time, which read as follows: "ARCA — Those who see the need of cultivating friendly relations with Russia, and would join with others of like mind in a non-profit world peace movement, write for further information to: American Russian Cultural Assn., 200 W. 57th St., New York, N. Y." In response to these advertisements, many interesting inquiries came from individuals in Hawaii.

Mrs. Fosdick and Dr. Markoff met the distinguished Soviet writer Alexander Korneychuk on September 23rd and invited him to visit ARCA. A special reception was to be arranged in his honor, but unfortunately he had to return to the USSR sooner than he expected. ARCA literature was sent to him together with a cordial letter expressing regret at his departure.

ARCA presented to the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. the following publications: "Roerich", by R. Rentz, India; "Nicholas Roerich, A Master of the Mountains", by Barnett D. Conlan; VOKS Bulletin, 1945; "Why Study Russia", by Prof. John Somerville, ARCA publication; and "Benjamin Franklin and Russian Scientists of the 18th century", by Dr. E. Markoff. Acknowledgment was received from Thomas R. Barcus, chief of the exchange and gift division.

The Department of Labor Library, Washington, D. C. acknowledged receipt of requested literature.

The ARCA Reference and Research Library continues to be a popular source for students, teachers, professional people and the general public desiring authentic information about Soviet culture. Of the many new volumes added to the Library during 1946, "Beautiful Unity", a book by Nicholas Roerich, published by the Youth Art and Culture Circle, Bombay, and "Himavat" by Nicholas Roerich, published by Kitabistan, Allahabad, were received from India, and the following were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Fosdick: books on Kolhoz, aviation, industry, tractors, public education; publications on art and artists, and on architectural and historic monuments destroyed by the Nazis; a publication of the Academy of

Agriculture of USSR; "Education", by A. Makarenko; 6 volumes of "Znamya", and 3 volumes of "Novyi Mir", literary magazines; and books by the following authors: Sergei Michalkhov, L. Kvitsko, Sergei Gerassimov, F. Bubleinikov, K. Chukovsky, V. Lebedev, A. Barto, S. Marshak, A. Gaidar, K. Simonov, and S. Sergeev-Tzenky.

EXCHANGE OF CULTURAL MATERIAL

The Board of Directors of American Russian Cultural Association is deeply grateful to VOKS, Moscow, the USSR Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, for sending important material which was added to the ARCA Reference and Research Library, and which was especially helpful in the Department of Information. The following valuable publications were received during 1946:

Complete works of Tolstoi; complete works of Chekhov; selected works of Gogol; selected works of Gorky; Year Book of the Moscow Art Theater; Album of Theater Costume; Stanislavsky: Plan for Staging Othello; Album — "Leningrad"; 5 copies of the textbook "Russian Language for English-Speaking People" by Nina Potapova; fifteen Children's Books by outstanding writers; *Foma Gordeev*, by M. Gorky; *Maxim Gorki*, by A. Roskin; *Siberian Short Stories*, by V. Korolenko; *Life of V. Korolenko*, by A. Derman; Comedy — "Woe from Wit", by A. Griboyedov; *I. Moskvin*, by V. Vilenkin; *Life and Stage*, by I. V. Salina; *Chosen Poems*, by P. Antokolski. Several volumes on the following artists of Russia: Victor Vasnetsov, Mikhail Shibanov, Semion Schedrin, Nikolai Nevrev. VOKS Chronicles and Bulletins for 1945 and 1946 on Theater, Music, Cinema, Literature, Science, Medicine, Architecture, Agriculture, Sports, Social Science, in English and Russian. Magazines: "Bolshevik", "Soviet Woman", in Russian; "New Times", in English. Newspapers: "Trud", "Teachers' Newspaper", "Newspaper of Literature", "Literature and Art", "Izvestia", "Pravda", in Russian.

The following material was sent by ARCA to VOKS during 1946: The American Journal of Archaeology, for 1943, 1944 and 1945; The Oak Leaf School Paper, of Oak Ridge High School, Tenn.; Schools at War, (magazine) Feb. 1945; 17 issues of Science News Letter, 1945; *The Russia I Believe In*, by S. N. Harper; *Soviet Philosophy*, by John Somerville; *State of the Union* (play), by

Howard Lindsey; *Dream Girl* (play), by Robert Sherwood; *Next Half Hour* (play), by Mary Smith; *Deep are the Roots* (play), by Arnold D'Ausseau; *A New Russian Grammar* (2 vols.), by Anna H. Semeonoff; *Simplified Russian Method* — Conversational and Commercial, by Bondar; *Philosophical Abstracts* (magazine); *Who's Who in Philosophy*; *Monthly Magazine of Natural History*, Jan.-Feb.-Mar.-Apr. 1946; *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum* for 1943, 1944, 1946; *Bulletin of the Museum of Fine Arts*, Boston, Feb. 1946; *Indian Art of the USA*; *Masters of Popular Paintings*; *Britain at War*; *Organic Design*; *Joan Miro*; *Salvador Dali*; *The Philosophical Review*, July 1946; *Philosophy of Science* (magazine) July 1945; *Why Study Russia* (ARCA brochure), by John Somerville; *Benjamin Franklin and the Russian Scientists in the 18th Century* (article), by E. Markoff; 2 copies of *Dalny Poot*, a book of poems by Irina Yassen, ARCA member, one for VOKS Library and one to be transmitted to the Union of Soviet Writers and Poets; also a number of articles by Prof. Nicholas Roerich.

Two plays by Thornton Wilder, "Our Town" and "The Skin of our Teeth", were sent to the Theater Section of VOKS for a possibility of having them produced there. Early in March of 1946 a letter was received by ARCA from the secretary of the Theater Section, informing Mr. Wilder that the two plays were being translated into Russian, "so that the entire Theater Section may become acquainted with your plays. As soon as the translation will be ready, we shall arrange a meeting for broad discussion and will acquaint you with the results".

A book by Mr. B. Kwartin, ARCA member, "Fundamentals of Vocal Art", his biography and several of his articles were sent to the Soviet Union.

Active correspondence continues with the Instituto de Intercambio Cultural Mexicano-Ruso in Mexico, the Netherlands-Russian Cultural Institute in Holland, and the Russian Institute of Stockholm University in Sweden, — accompanied by an exchange of material between these institutions and ARCA.

Mr. V. Tereshtenko's article "USSR — Unity in Diversity" appeared in the magazine "20th Century", a publication in India, "Concord", a Calcutta weekly magazine, on January 2, 1946 carried an article by Krishna Chaitanya based upon the article by V. Tereshtenko.

In the March issue of "American Vegetarian", Los Angeles, Calif., appeared an article on Prof. Roerich by Mrs. S. J. Stave,

ARCA literature, publications, annual reports were transmitted through Prof. D. Gusti, to Prof. C. Parhon, President, Rumanian Association for Cultural Relations with Soviet Russia, Bucharest, Rumania. Similar material, also including articles and essays by Dr. E. Markoff, was sent to General Gundorov, editor "Slaviane" (magazine), Moscow.

Dr. Markoff's article, in Russian, "Franklin and Russian Scientists in the 18th Century", was sent to N. Novicov, USSR Ambassador, Washington, D. C.; USSR Consul General J. M. Lomakin and Vice-Consul P. I. Fedosimov, New York; V. Kemenov, Chairman, VOKS, Moscow.

Acknowledgments of receipt of the ARCA 1945 Annual Report were received from 76 leading libraries in America.

LECTURES

Prof. Roman Jakobson, ARCA Honorary Advisor, and recognized authority on Slavic culture, gave a memorable lecture on "The Ancient Russian Epic" on January 20th. He presented rare and interesting data on the culture of Russia of the 11th and 12th Centuries, with its wealth of literature about which for a long time there has been much controversy among scholars, and gave highlights of the most important manuscript of that period, which became one of the greatest epic poems of Russia, namely, "The Tale of the Raid of Igor". Prof. Jakobson also dwelt at length on the many libraries already existing at that early period in the monasteries and churches of Russia. The audience, consisting of teachers, educators, librarians, representatives of Russian newspapers, and ARCA members, enjoyed Prof. Jakobson's lecture and plied him with questions afterward.

Mr. Lai Adomian, authority on Russian music, gave a lecture on "Music of the Peoples of the USSR" at ARCA on March 24th. Mr. Adomian explained in a subtle manner the soul and spirit of the Russian folk song, and combined his lecture with music, by playing a number of the latest records of Russian songs. He illustrated the significance of the folk song in Russia's leading operatic and symphonic compositions, and also showed how some parts of symphonies have in turn become folk songs, such as "Meadowland". After the lecture, at the audience's request, Mr. Adomian re-played parts of some of the phonograph records, and answered many questions.

Prof. John Somerville, of Hunter College, author of "Soviet Philosophy", delivered an unusually instructive and graphic lecture, "Soviet Russia's Concept of Democracy", on April 28th. A renowned authority on the culture and philosophy of Soviet Russia, having lived from 1935 to 1937 in the Soviet Union for the purpose of intensive research under an appointment as Cutting Travelling Fellow of Columbia University, Prof. Somerville presented in a most vivid manner the important aspects of Russian life and thought, the role of democracy in the Soviet economic system and in education, and its enlightened approach to racial issues and the status of women. At the conclusion of the lecture the audience's enthusiasm was manifested in numerous questions to which the lecturer responded at length.

Dr. E. Morkoff, ARCA Director, gave a lecture at ARCA on October 27th on "Cultural Relations between Russia and America in the 18th and 19th Centuries". This most intriguing and scholarly lecture was based on important data and hitherto unknown material, including correspondence between Russian scientists and Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, which Dr. Markoff accumulated during her research work for the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia. After her lecture, Dr. Markoff answered questions put by a large and interested audience. She also delivered a paper on the main subjects of her research under the same title before the Russian Circle of Columbia University.

Following his brilliant lecture of April 28th, Prof. John Somerville was invited by ARCA to deliver a series of three lectures on Russian Literature during the winter season. His first lecture of the series was given on November 17th and covered the period of Russian literature from Pushkin to Dostoevsky, presenting a critical analysis of five great writers: Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, Turgeniev, and Dostoevsky. Prof. Somerville, emphasizing the ever-present human values, the romantic realism, the strong and vivid character portrayal, the dynamic force and universal message contained in this period of Russian literature, read excerpts from the works of these writers, stimulating the desire of the audience for more intensive study of the great in Russian literature. Following the lecture there was a long period of spontaneous discussion between lecturer and audience.

Dr. David Fogel, ARCA Director, delivered a lecture on "Soviet Culture" on December 3rd. at the Community Church of All-Nations Fellowship in New York. Highlights of his talk were: The multi-

national population and diverse geography of the USSR; its crusading spirit and emancipating mission for pan-humanism and universal brotherhood; its literature's consistent posing of a strong moral theme. Dr. Fogel especially stressed the Russian realism and optimism of today in contrast to the pessimism of the serfdom era. He was heard by a warmly appreciative audience.

Prof. John Somerville, on December 15th, gave the second lecture, entitled "From Tolstoy to Gorky", of his series "The Literature of Russia". This was an enlightening study of the characteristics of the five great writers. Tolstoy, Chekhov, Andreev, Kuprin and Gorky. Prof. Somerville particularly dwelt on the first and last writers, justly terming them the two giants of Russian literature, although he pointed out how radically they differed from each other. In discussing Gorky he emphasized his sound and deep philosophy and his remarkable knowledge of the social ills of pre-revolutionary Russia. While he noted the deep emotional quality which is so evident in the Russian writers, Prof. Somerville stressed their complete abstinence, at the same time, from the mawkish sentimentality which sometimes characterizes the emotional aspect in many great works of world literature.

Sina Fosdick, ARCA Executive Director, gave on May 2nd at ARCA headquarters a two-hour lecture to 28 students of P. S. 33 Bronx, New York and their teacher, Mrs. R. S. Weiner, covering outlines of Russian culture and life in the Soviet Union. Subsequently the students sent to ARCA 14 letters addressed to school children in Russia. These letters, and 6 letters received later from the students of another school, were translated and sent by ARCA to Moscow pupils in grades equivalent to those of the American students who had written the letters.

On May 9th, Mrs. Fosdick gave a lecture to 32 students of P. S. 33, Bronx, N. Y., accompanied by their teacher Mr. Katz. This group was unusually intelligent, asking questions about various Republics of USSR, schools, arts and crafts.

On November 26th, 28 students of P. S. 54, Manhattan, with their teacher, Mrs. Susy Box, were given a lecture and graphic study period on the Soviet Union at ARCA headquarters.

EXHIBITIONS

January 2 to 30: Wisconsin State Teachers College presented two ARCA exhibitions, "History of the USSR" and "Reproductions

of Paintings by Nicholas Roerich". Mrs. Behncke, who arranged the exhibitions for the college, wrote that both exhibitions were received with great interest and enjoyment.

January 8 to 15: The Macmillan Company, book publishers, New York, exhibited in their Fifth Avenue window six ARCA photographs depicting the staging of famous plays in Soviet Russia. This exhibit was shown in connection with Macmillan's new publication, "Seven Soviet Plays", with foreword by Prof. H. W. L. Dana.

Through January: The Egyptian Museum, San Jose, California, held an exhibition of "Russians at War and in Peace". This was followed during February by another ARCA exhibit, "History of the USSR". The Curator of the Egyptian Museum, Jay R. McCullough, acknowledged both exhibitions as follows: "The exhibitions have created very favorable interest, and our visitors have voiced their approval of the fine material made available to them through your kindness. I deeply appreciate your friendly and courteous cooperation and the opportunity offered us to work with ARCA and aid in carrying out, in some small measure, its praiseworthy aims and ideals".

February 18 to 28: The University of Wisconsin exhibited "15 Soviet Artists" and "Reproductions of Nicholas Roerich Paintings" in the lounge of Elizabeth Waters Hall. Miss Sarah Gridley Ross, Director of the Hall, wrote in a letter to ARCA, ". . . If they (reproductions of Roerich paintings) serve the purpose of increasing appreciation of Russia's contribution to our culture in our university students — as they must — I shall be very happy!" An article appearing in "The Daily Cardinal" on February 21, 1946, gave an account of the exhibits, and some of the interesting highlights of the career of Nicholas Roerich.

March 3 to 9: The American Ass'n. of University Women, Madison, Wisconsin, sponsored an exhibition of "15 Soviet Artists" and "Reproductions of Roerich Paintings", in their Club House. In connection with the exhibition, a lecture "The History of Russian Literature" was given by Prof. E. J. Zawicki, head of the Department of Slavic Languages at the University of Wisconsin, on March 7th. The following is an extract from the "Bulletin", of March 1946 — "Two art exhibits loaned by the American Russian Cultural Association of New York will be on display. They are "15 Soviet Artists" and "Roerich Paintings" . . . Nicholas Roerich, the greatest living Russian painter, is one of the foremost artists of all time, and has

been called the modern Leonardo da Vinci. The colored reproductions of his work in this exhibit show well the power and grandeur of his art" . . .

March 10 to 21: Maxwell Bros. Department Store, Columbus, Ga., featured two ARCA exhibitions: "Historic Cities and Cultural Monuments of Soviet Russia", consisting of 69 photographs, and "History of the USSR", consisting of 57 colored reproductions of historical paintings which hang in great museums throughout Russia. The Columbus Enquirer, on March 22nd, carried an article about the exhibitions, which were arranged through the efforts of Mr. John Mitz, ARCA member.

March and April: Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N. Y., exhibited "Russians at War and in Peace". The following is an extract from an article about the exhibit which appeared in the college monthly publication "The Bardian" on May 9, 1946. "These Russian-made photos throw a light on the degree of destruction brought on the USSR by the war and also on the efforts being made to rebuild the country". Felix E. Hirsch, Librarian of Bard College, acknowledged the value of the exhibit by writing to ARCA the following: "You may be assured that the display has been greatly appreciated by our college community, and many students and faculty members have expressed their enthusiasm about the unusually excellent selection of pictures which you have made. Due to the demonstrated interest, we kept the exhibit a little longer than we originally planned, a fact which I trust will not be unwelcomed by you".

March 26 to April 14: San Francisco Museum of Art exhibited "15 Soviet Artists" and "Graphic Art of Soviet Russia", in connection with other Russian material.

November 19 to December 27: Verona Public Schools, Verona, New Jersey, exhibited "History of the USSR", consisting of reproductions of historical paintings by foremost Russian painters.

Through December: Mohawk College, Utica, N. Y., exhibited "Historic Cities and Cultural Monuments of Soviet Russia", consisting of large mounted photographs, and "War Front Drawings" — reproductions of sketches made by Russian artists at the front lines during the recent world war.

Exhibitions held in continuous succession through the year at ARCA headquarters included: "Graphic Art of Soviet Russia", "15

Soviet Artists", "Stalin Prize Winners", "Reconstruction Period in USSR". The permanent exhibition of original paintings by Prof. Nicholas Roerich also continues to attract many visitors from all parts of the country and abroad.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

The following is an illustrative, though but partial, account of library services rendered and inquiries handled by ARCA during 1946.

Miss Patricia Brown, of Reader's Digest — information about sports in the USSR.

Dr. Konstantin Z. Fourandjieff, Yale University — pre-school education and kindergarten system in Russia between 1917 and 1929.

American Assn. of University Women, Lewisburg, Pa. — information on ballet, theater, painting, literature of Soviet Russia.

Fortune Magazine — inquiry about a Soviet publication.

Mr. R. Deal, Wayne University student — civil and criminal law in Russia.

Prof. J. M. Grainger, State Teachers College, Farmville, Va. — suggestions in securing speakers, exhibitions, Russian music, for an Institute on Russia during the summer session at the College.

A. S. Dubitsky — research work on Turkestan.

Dr. Margaret Brown, President of Panzer College, East Orange, N. J. — folk dance costumes of Russia.

Young Men's Christian Assn., McBurney Branch, N. Y. C. — general ARCA literature.

International Film Foundation, N. Y. C. — sources for obtaining phonograph records of Soviet music.

University of Washington, Course of Higher Education and Guidance, Seattle, Wash. — information about ARCA courses in Russian.

Wm. S. Gilmor, radio commentator — material on City Planning and Urbanization in USSR.

Clara Skiles-Platt, Director of Curriculum, New York University School of Education — the life and work of Russians in the United States; life of people in Soviet Russia.

Raymond Levy, City College, N. Y. — extensive material on Soviet education for a talk at the college. Letter of warm appreciation received.

American Red Cross, N. Y. Chapter — information leading to contact with the Russian scientist who is a specialist in the treatment of the very rare disease known as Tay-Sachs.

Miss S. Bloom, N. Y. U. student — information for a thesis on "Russia's Contribution to American Culture". Research work at ARCA Library.

Constance Anderson, British Information Service — general ARCA literature.

C. H. Richardson, Pasadena, Calif. — Constitution of the USSR.

R. B. Stringham, New Milford, Conn. — information on books covering inventions, scientific discoveries, and technical improvements made by Russians since 1917.

Miss C. Judson, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer — information on Russian ballet.

Personnel Office of the United Nations — recommendation of a capable Russian translator. Position filled through ARCA assistance.

W. O. Frentont, Michigan State College — recommendation of Russian textbooks, also "Markoff Method", and the newspapers "Pravda" and "Isvestia".

American Broadcasting Company, Program Division — Russian singers, writers, or lecturers . . . for radio programs for the United Nations.

Mrs. A. Chorpennig, Director, Goodman Theater, Chicago — information about Children's Theater and Children's Plays in USSR for an article for the Encyclopedia Americana. ARCA Library provided most comprehensive material for research work.

Gilbert Goldwasser, Yale University student — extensive material for a paper on "Soviet-American Organizations in the United States".

Dr. Paul Kolachov, scientist of Washington, D. C. — extensive material for preparation of a thesis "Cultural Relations between the USA and the USSR". Copy, together with a letter of deep appreciation sent to ARCA on completion.

"Cooperative Digest" — film strips.

Dr. Edna McEachern, Music Dept., State Teachers College, Montclair, N. J. — a lecturer from ARCA for one of their programs.

Chinese News Service — general information.

Dorothy Norman, feature writer, *New York Post* — information pertaining to certain speeches of Mr. Vishinsky and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Gene Forrell, Music Director, International Film Foundation — information on Soviet music records, to illustrate documentary films.

Wesley Katz, writer — information on American writers popular in the Soviet Union for an article for "Digest Scope".

George Dunkel, artist — information about English publication of Gogol's "Inspector General".

Mr. M. K. Chulik, Youngstown, Ohio — general information.

Miss Ann Allison, writer — working hours in Russia.

A. C. Croft, Educator's *Washington Dispatch* — system of education in the USSR.

"Life" magazine — information about two well-known Russian dancers.

Maj. E. J. Perry, Naval Housing Area, Pearl Harbor, T. H. — cultivation of friendly relations with USSR.

Jerry Briscoe, Northwestern University — material for preparation of a thesis "How Can the U. S. and Russia stay at Peace".

Miss Harriet Davis, Columbia Broadcasting System — radio program "Women of the World" — personal visit and research work at ARCA Library. Letter of appreciation received for extensive material given to her.

A. Carter, San Francisco — general information.

J. K. Lively, Arlington, Va. — bibliography.

American Association for the United Nations — exhibition material.

New York Lighthouse — assistance in the Russian language, for a blind student.

Intercollegiate Broadcasting System — suggestions toward arranging a broadcast between Russian and American students.

Prof. Phillip Weintraub, Hunter College — Peasant Life, Psychology, Social Legislation — for articles for Encyclopedia Slavonica.

Fiatelle Inc., Commercial Designing — information about 2 Soviet artists.

Hunter College, History Department — information on exhibitions.

Mr. H. Best, University of Kentucky — general information and ARCA material.

President, Alpha-Mu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, City College — donation of literature for their library.

Secretary, American-Italian Institute for Cultural Relations — suggestions for their organization and cooperation with ARCA.

Miss M. Crocker, Barnard College student — recommendation of a book on the History of Russia.

Mr. H. Mazer, Union College, Schenectady — education in the Soviet Union. Special material sent for an article for the school magazine.

Mr. M. Deutsch — travel in Soviet Russia.

Queens College, Flushing, N. Y. — ARCA literature.

Charles J. Stupich, Detroit — recording of "Peter and the Wolf".

Mr. A. Hansman, Brooklyn, N. Y. — the Cinema in the Soviet Union.

Miss F. Kraus, City College, N. Y. — research material for a paper on Soviet Education.

Dr. Elton Atwater, Pendle Hill, Pa. — recommendation of speakers, extensive material for a 10 weeks course — "How to Understand the Soviet Union", also ARCA travelling exhibitions.

Miss M. Levin, Central Feature News Syndicate — extensive material for an article on Sports in the Soviet Union.

United Press — information about a Siberian Newspaper.

Florence Merville, Librarian of the Newark Public Library — basic list of Russian books.

Free Public Library of Cranford, N. J. — general literature.

Librarian of University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. — ARCA publications.

Librarian of Dwight Morrow High School, East Orange, N. J. — Russian Posters.

Librarian, University of California — ARCA annual reports for past few years.

The Library of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. — 24 current books and periodicals on Soviet art, science and related subjects sent to them.

ARCA handled many inquiries from public school, junior high school, high school and college students of New York, Brooklyn and Long Island; and from teachers of public and high schools of New York City and vicinity; as well as requests for aid in establishing correspondence with Russian students.

LETTERS TO MEMBERS

At the beginning of the season in October the Board of Directors decided to issue the Letters to Members bi-monthly instead of monthly. The Letters now carry, therefore, a far more extensive coverage of ARCA events and projects. In addition to the current news, however, the Directors continue to voice thoughts of their own apropos of the work as it progresses. In January 1946, for instance, Mrs. Fosdick wrote as follows:

"... An increase in membership will greatly enhance our possibilities of expanding our work. ARCA, as you know, being a non-profit organization, devotes all its income towards building understanding and good will between the USA and USSR. At this time when the United Nations are working intensely to solve the problem of international security and peace, the Directors of ARCA feel that it is not enough for us merely to encourage the American public to become acquainted with a few leading writers or economists of Soviet Russia, or to listen to the new symphonies of its best composers. It seems

that a feeling of suspicion and prejudice is again asserting itself in the press here, inciting war-like sentiments which might lead to very grave consequences. Public opinion at large must change and evince a more friendly interest toward a nation which but recently was greatly extolled for its heroic contribution towards winning the war. A few facts cited here might help in this direction. . . ."

Before 1917, 4/5 of Russia's children were deprived of the possibility of getting a general education; by 1927 over 13,000 new schools were opened, attended by more than 3,600,000 children. In August 1930, the Soviet government decreed universal compulsory primary education throughout the country. In the far North, in the steppes of Asiatic Russia, in the remote mountain villages of the Caucasus, schools sprang up. The 5-year Plan of 1938-42 called for universal secondary education in the cities and the farm areas. By 1939 the total enrollment, including all age groups, had risen to 47,400,000 pupils — one out of every 4 persons in the Soviet Union was attending school. In 1914 there were 24,700 students in 81 universities and institutions. In 1941 a student body of 564,573 studied in 782 universities. These items prove eloquently Russia's concern for the thorough education of her peoples. . . ."

In October, Mr. Weed wrote:

"... Much of our own cultural material has been sent to Russia and much more will be sent. This is consistent with our belief that mutual understanding and agreement can come only as a result of mutual knowledge and respect.

We have, in turn, received a great deal of material from Russia and much of this will be on display from time to time at ARCA headquarters. The ARCA headquarters has become recognized as a source of reliable information on the cultural aspects of Russian life. Each week we have many visitors who come seeking information on various phases of Russian activity, and every day there are letters and telephone calls to be answered along the same lines. This, too, is good because it furthers the aim to which ARCA is dedicated.

I am very happy to be able to send with this letter an article, "Why Study Russia?" prepared for ARCA by Prof. John Somerville. This article will be printed in booklet form and we will be able to supply you with copies for your own use and for friends as soon as we receive them. . . ."

In December, Dr. Fogel wrote:

"... We have received a Soviet Theater Chronicle, dated 1946. This publication commemorates the tenth anniversary of Maxim Gorky's death. The article 'The Gorky Drama Theater in Leningrad', by Prof. Mikhail Grigoriev, has been extracted and enclosed with this letter. It is of exceptional interest for it reveals the theme and purpose of one type of early Soviet drama. As a tribute to this great Russian genius, the theater of the Soviet Union, for the year 1946, staged 115 new Gorky productions."

THE GORKY THEATER IN LENINGRAD

In 1919, by decree of the People's Commissariat of Education and the Petrograd Soviet, it was resolved to found the first Soviet theater, "a theater of classical tragedy, romantic drama and high comedy." Maxim Gorky was a member of the special collegium which formulated the theater's repertoire. At the beginning of the revolution the old theaters in Petrograd all sported eclectic repertoires. Now, there was the consideration of a new audience, comprised for the most part of Red Army men. The latter would leave for the front immediately after the performance. The question of the proper theatrical repertoire assumed exceptional importance.

In "A Difficult Question" published in his collection of articles, "The Deeds and Days of the State Bolshoi Drama Theater", Gorky developed his favorite ideas concerning the repertoire audiences required. He visualized the Soviet theater as a school of life, setting examples worthy of emulation by the people of a new society.

People should love and respect the human element in man. This highly human element is what the theater should show. It is in this sense that Gorky speaks of the hero, of the idealization of the individual. This is not the hero of idealistic art, who himself, unaided by others, makes history. This is a hero in a new sense of the word, close to that with which it is used today in speaking of the heroes of labor, industry, aviation, armed forces, etc. Way back in 1909, in lectures delivered in Capri on Russian literature, Gorky, speaking about romanticism and the application of this term to the psychology of the proletariat, said: "Let not the application of the term romanticism to the psychology of the proletariat dismay you. For lack of any other, I use this term to define the heightened,

militant mood of the proletariat resulting from the recognition of its own strength, from its growing tendency to look upon itself as the master of the world and the liberator of mankind."

Concerning the tasks of the new theater, Gorky said: "In our day we have need of a heroic theater, a theater that would make it its object to idealize the individual. That would revive romanticism and paint man in poetic colors. It is necessary to show man as a hero, nobly self-sacrificing and passionately in love with his ideal . . . the man of honest deeds and great exploits".

At that time there was not any suitable Soviet theater repertoire to illustrate this theme. The new theater had to select from classical plays those which would be in accord with the heroic atmosphere of the civil war and revolution. These were chiefly found in the tragedies of Shakespeare and Schiller. Gorky urged the theater to consider the great experience of the Moscow Art Theater in working on performances of the romantic type.

Not only did Gorky attend the first performances of the theater, he also had long chats with the actors and stage directors, gave them his advice and sometimes invited the actors to his own house for discussion. Gorky was particularly interested in the performances which were presented for the units of the Petrograd garrison on the eve of their departure for the front lines of the civil war, and in the opinions of the Red Army men about these performances.

Gorky was inspired by the enthusiasm of the theatrical workers, who were doing important work at a time when Red Army men were defending the boundaries of their country.

VISITORS

Among the constant stream of interested visitors who came to ARCA headquarters, to view the Soviet cultural exhibits and the permanent collection of Roerich paintings, some of the visitors from distant lands deserve special mention. Mr. A. de Soria, of Peru; Miss Mary Thomas, of India; Irena Dodal, a Czechoslovakian artist who, having been in a concentration camp in Europe for five years, came to see Prof. Roerich's paintings and spoke of her great admiration for his art; Mr. Hari Krishna Srivastava, an art collector from India and an admirer of Russian culture who is greatly interested in Prof. Roerich's paintings; Prof. D. Gusti, Vice-President of the Rumanian Russian Cultural Association of Bucharest and former

President of the Bucharest National Academy, Mr. M. Azin Husain, Secretary of the India Delegation to the United Nations, and personal friend of Prof. Roerich and his family, came to see the Roerich paintings in New York, speaking highly of the exhibition at Lahore, India, of the paintings of Nicholas Roerich and Svetoslav Roerich. Another distinguished visitor, Mr. Carl Bickell, former President of United Press, Director Ringling Brothers Museum, Florida, enjoyed both the permanent Roerich collection and the current Soviet photographic exhibition.

Several art groups, with their teachers, and other visitors to ARCA during 1946 came not only from nearby communities but from all parts of the United States and Canada.

THE ROERICH PACT AND BANNER OF PEACE COMMITTEE

The Committee carried on extensive correspondence with distinguished scientists, writers, and leading figures in public life throughout the year. Many new members in Europe and Asia joined the Committee while it continued with preparation for publication of the Roerich Pact Booklet. This Booklet, entitled "Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace" was issued in December of 1946. Copies may be acquired by applying to ARCA headquarters.

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Of the special articles and addresses to ARCA members received from our Honorary President, Prof. Nicholas Roerich, during 1946, for reprint and distribution in America, the following three have been selected to close this year's report: "Sacred Ploughfield", "Pax per Cultura", and "Let Us Rejoice".

PAX PER CULTURA (Address to Members of ARCA)

Friends:

During the summer months each ARCA member will meet new people and can sow seeds of culture which will sprout later. Seeds ripen during the summer; thus also friendly discourses are warmer and bring more response during the summer. The value of a rest lies

in that fact that it gives one a chance to ally oneself more closely with something good and constructive. Peace among nations is not strengthened through bombs, but through friendly, mutual understanding.

Much is spoken about the lack of mutual understanding. But, finally, listen to your neighbor and understand his good intentions; and do not condemn that which, because of your lack of knowledge, seems to you unclear and negative. Discern the causes and maybe you will perceive the source of estrangement. The world has suffered so greatly during this monstrous war. Many hearts became ill, deadened, but this harmful layer must be removed compassionately, through words and deeds. Warm up young hearts. Let their heroic dreams be directed toward a peaceful constructiveness and creativeness. Let the calling song ring out in benevolence.

It is a joy when a friendly call rings out unexpectedly from afar. We notice at present many good, undelayable thoughts born in new circles. Verily, voices of youth, voices of women will heroically affirm the Banner of Peace. Political leagues, organizations, edicts and commands do not decide the future. The voice of the People, the call of the multitudes is the sign of the times.

Each epoch has its Banner, and now the Banner of the People calls to Peace, Culture. Let some dark ones proceed to quarrel and fall into bestial stupidity. Convulsions of evil are unavoidable, but the essence of a people — the heart — wishes peace, peaceable construction, recognition and attainment of beauty and life. "Love each other", "create good", "preserve the treasures of the folk creativeness" — these calls silence the malicious roaring. Fear will drown in constructiveness — fear, the deadening ghost of ignorance.

Let us benevolently and boldly look into the future. The material and spiritual famine must be outlived in mutual assistance. Man has given birth to calamities, and man will heal them if he does not wish a catastrophe. Every cultural organization must bring its mite into the great achievement of regeneration. Precisely each human cooperation should multiply good and destroy evil. Many weeds will attempt to grow high in the garden, but the gardener will weed them out untiringly so that they may not choke the valuable healing plants.

In every human communion something good and encouraging can be easily manifested. An ignoramus will say: "Again talk about truisms!" Let us answer, "An unapplied truth is not a truism". A

truism is something known, which does not need repetition. But if something good and necessary is not applied in life, it means it is not generally known and realized. Thus, in the cold of the winter and in the warmth of the summer let us contribute our mite of good.

Hearty greetings!

NICHOLAS ROERICH

May 14, 1946

SACRED PLOUGHFIELD

(Address to the Friends of the Banner of Peace)

It is a real joy to learn of each endeavor for Culture. We believe that in the way of such undeferrable labor much is indeed being done. But still I wish to say once more how speedily everything must be done and that not a minute may be lost, in the interest of the Common Good. Also that even the smallest signs of cultural help should be treated with the greatest attention.

Let everyone note with the greatest care all these happy manifestations, in order that in the future we may know exactly what was brought into the one Chalice of Culture and by whom . . . Also let none of our friends belittle any activities by conventional limitations. The field of Culture is verily unlimited, and countless are the useful activities which arise from benevolent discussions. Perhaps that which is inapplicable today will be very practicable tomorrow. And perhaps what was put aside today may by then be forever lost.

Therefore the discussions about Culture must be benevolently broad. Is it true that only members of organized groups can be the sources of suggestions? No, all friends of Culture will provide the unifying streams of thoughts, which they will gather from everywhere and will summarize from many experiences. The main thing is to avoid the danger which so often obstructs the most useful beginnings — that of pronunciation of the formula "*Impossible*". How often does the apparently impossible change into the beautiful and accessible, if only the details and outer appearances are slightly modified! Let us not forget that all coworkers attract new masses to the thought of Culture. In this are contained happy possibilities, and at the same time a new responsibility, for everything that enters our cultural circles should be of high quality — befitting the cultural treasury of mankind.

Of course the coworkers during their current activities will contact many important institutions. This cooperation should be based on mutual benefit. Our cultural labors are of importance not only for today. Their significance is far wider, reaching all possible branches of Culture and inspiring new masses with the conception of Culture. Among these masses will also be those who previously either were unacquainted with the understanding of Culture or limited this great concept by a purely physical understanding. How joyous it is to speak of Culture altogether, to feel that whatever is done for it cannot cover the unlimited field — the ennoblement of the human spirit! In these noble actions of course not the slightest possibility should be lost. Not an hour may be wasted, when either by actions or by an inspiring word one may speak once more of the beautification, the betterment, the elevation of human life.

I will close with the ever-vital example of the conditions for enlightened educational activity — with the words of Paul, the Apostle:

"By the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

"By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report as deceivers and yet true;

"As unknown and yet well-known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened and not killed,

"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

Friends, now Mankind is facing an Armageddon of Culture. Beware of hatred and chauvinism.

NICHOLAS ROERICH

January, 1946

LET US REJOICE

"Hail to thee Youth, O ye unknown tribe!" spoke the great Russian poet. But is it really unknown? If we recall their best strivings — towards trust, toward desire to do something useful — then "unknown" falls away. And all who are young are so resourceful, so love movement. Since our early years destiny has placed us in close touch with young students. This has been a great blessing. For

twice ten years we saw pass before us the widest variety of students. Among them were most unusual and, it seemed, difficult types, yet they could not be named an "unknown tribe".

Life's best test is found in contact with youth. If you want to keep young, do not cease these luminous communions. Youth wants to know. Youth seeks to conquer life's difficulties. Youth has a store of courage — later often spent, replaced by weakness of will and by doubt. It is generally held that every twenty years we have a new generation. But, besides that, each year one encounters some new young beings, with fresh vigor, restless, searching.

It is a good thing that we were thrown with working youth, that there were more of such in our circle than of the well-to-do or the rich. How instructive to observe those young talents steadfastly developing under most difficult daily conditions! Such observations are the more valuable in that they are not made up of sentimental assumption but of radiant reality itself. This group of working youth offered its talents not only to easel painting but actually to all manifestations of folk art. We have always pointed out that the absurd term "industrial art" must be abandoned in favor of the broad concept of art. How many times have we been forced to explain that a button designed by Benvenuto Cellini has far more quality than any number of ordinary canvases in the most massive of gold frames. In our endeavors to spread true understanding of art we were aided by the youth of the factories, who approached us in the name of labor, seeking to carry back each into his own factory the loftiest of artistic ideals. Graduates of our school found themselves in advanced factory positions, and their more refined taste equipped them with a truer approach to work.

Only by such broad sowing can one create a "young tribe", new and known, out of common striving for high quality in labor. Again must all peoples return to fundamentals of high enlightenment and creativeness. After the war, after defense of the motherland, the chief attention in all walks of life will center on construction. The "young tribe", the folk artists, will form the bulwark of many attainments. "Hail to thee, young tribe, known to us. . . ."

Remember what a Golgotha had to be experienced by Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakoff and the entire glorious "Kutchka" before they were so highly acclaimed outside their country! We all recall how, in our own time, collectors of Russian art treasures were derided — Stassov, Mrs. Pogoskaya, Princess Tenisheff and all who even then

realized how justly, in due time, would the Russian people value its natural heritage. I recall the mocking way a certain ill-disposed gentleman wrote of "little stools fashioned after the motifs of Tschud and Meri" — "motifs" embodying at that time not only true Russian designs but the entire "animal style" so valued today. The "animal style", now greatly admired in the Scythian and Luristan findings, not so long ago drew from certain snobs a mere shrug of the shoulders.

Of course today much has changed. No longer will Versailles rhapsodists slander everything Russian. Russian people have come to value their men of genius and have started to build a justly venerated archive of treasures from antiquity. To me personally all this offers a real festival — confirming a reaction felt and recorded in many of my writings for forty years or more. I believed that a worthy evaluation of all Russian treasures would be made. It was unthinkable that the Russian people, so gifted, so intelligent, so wise, would not be inspired by its own native treasures. It was hard to admit that the men in all walks of life who labored for Russian glory received no worthy recognition. Now the values are affirmed, the brilliant workers recognized, and Russian glory resounds to the ends of the earth. In labor and in deprivation was forged this undying glory. The Russian people sought to *know*, and in learning, in diligent awareness they first of all did appreciate and exalt their beautiful undeniable national heritage. The heart rejoices in the glory of the motherland.

Many-sided is the national creativeness. Russian people have given to the world the wisest of proverbs, great epics, superb expressions of sorrow and joy. Russia's historic periods are reflected not by ignoble luxury but by construction. Historians or archaeologists investigating her ancient cities note first of all monumental buildings, water systems, canals, means of communication — all public developments attesting this quality of constructiveness. According to the outbursts of national soul, according to upward flight, the next generation can calculate its potential power. Decadent minds try to present even the best human achievements as mirage, deliberate falsification, or simply as fiction. However, bold fliers have conquered new spaces. And there are many such pan-human joys. Let us rejoice.

The great consolidated family of nations crowns representatives of culture and surrounds their labor with remembrance. Vandals, "Masloffs", have receded into infamous legends. The people are striving unitedly toward the knowledge and the safeguarding of real

treasures. In the cities destroyed by war their first constructions are Houses of Culture — scientific institutions, schools, museums, theatres, hospitals. Hardly had the nation begun to recover from the barbaric invasion before it turned its attention to cultural construction. It is a joy to welcome these manifestations of broad constructive thought. My book "Glory" is dedicated to all creators everywhere. Let us rejoice!

NICHOLAS ROERICH

Himalayas.

December, 1946

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